regularisation of pre-enactment encroachments.

"Decline in the Tiger Population"

3591. DR. SANJAY SINH : Will the MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been an alarming decline in the Tiger population particularly in the "Tiger Re-reserves" in several States;

(b) if so, the reason therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that there has been a perceptible drop in the population of Leopards in Tamil Nadu and West Bengal; and

(d) if so, what corrective steps Government propose to take in the matter.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The last All India Tiger/Leopard Census was carried out in 1989 and next is due in 1993. The actual position will be revealed only after the census figures of 1993 are received.

(d) Does not arise.

"Ecology Parks in Coastal Areas"

3592. DR. SANJAYA SINH : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether town planning experts have suggested the setting up of model ecology parks in Coastal areas in the country, as per the news item entitled "Ecology Parks in Coastal areas mooted" which appeared in the Hindustan Times dated 19th February, 1993;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take in the matter ?

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THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) :

(a) and (b) The Institute of Town Planners in their 41st Seminar on Development and Management of coastal areas have suggested in the draft recommendations setting up of model ecology parks in the coastal areas. However, details etc. have not been given in their draft recommendations. The recommendations have not been received in this Ministry.

(c) The suggestions of the Institute of Town Planners as and when received would be forwarded to the concerned State Governments and Union Territory Administrations, in consultation with the Ministry of Urban Development, for their consideration.

"Action Plan for the Himaalyas"

3593. DR. SANJAYA SINH : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS be pleased to State :

(a) whether Government propose to a new action plan for the Himalayas; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) :

(a) The Govind Ballabh Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment and Development, an autonomous organisation of the Ministry of Environment & Forests have prepared an Action Plan or the Himalaya.

(b) The salient features of the Action Plan are given below :

—Geological instability interacting with a complex of problems manifest fragility to the Himalayan ecosystem.

—Data on problems like denudation, siltation, hydrological imbalances and floods suffer from the drawbacks, precision and the regional quantifications are found to be quite low.

—Positive points of traditional resource production and use systems needs